

JUBILEE REFLECTION

A Collaborative Theological Collection

Guidelines for Contributing Writers

Prepared for the Jubilee Reflection Editorial Circle

A WORD TO CONTRIBUTORS

You have been invited to write for a collection unlike most theological anthologies. The Jubilee Reflection project does not seek essays that summarize doctrine, survey commentary, or demonstrate mastery of a subject. It seeks something rarer and more difficult: a contemplative encounter with a specific intersection of spiritual law and concept, rendered in your own voice, rooted in your own experience of seeking.

The Jubilee Wheel maps seven Laws and seven Concepts onto a single circle, with Divine Will / Love at its center. Each of the 49 intersections represents a unique angle of approach to the same central light. Your essay is not a chapter in a textbook. It is a facet of a larger whole — one voice in a conversation that will, when assembled, reveal something none of the individual writers could have seen alone.

The best submissions will sound nothing like the model essay. That is the sign the collaboration is working.

These guidelines are not a formula. They are an invitation to understand what this project is asking of you, so that what you offer is genuinely yours.

UNDERSTANDING THE JUBILEE WHEEL

The wheel contains three concentric zones:

- The outer ring holds the seven Laws, each occupying one section: Law of Love, Law of Sin & Death, Law of Faith, Law of Grace, Law of Truth, Law of Iniquity, and Law of Freedom.
- The inner wedges hold the seven Concepts: Revelation, Existence, Yielding, Agreement, Opposites, Projection, and Reciprocity.
- The center circle, labeled Divine Will / Love, is the source from which both Laws and Concepts radiate and to which they return.

Your assigned intersection is identified by a badge — one Law colored in its bold ring tone, one Concept colored in its soft wedge tone, all other sections in off-white. The badge is the visual identity of your essay. Readers seeing it will immediately know which voice they are hearing within the larger collection.

The 49 intersections do not exhaust the project. There are also standalone essays on each of the seven Laws, each of the seven Concepts, and a set of foundational essays establishing the theological framework of the wheel. In all, the collection encompasses 83 topics. The intersection essays form its living center.

WHAT THE ESSAY IS — AND IS NOT

It is a contemplative encounter, not an exposition.

The essay emerges from sitting with your assigned intersection until it speaks to something in your own life and understanding. It is theological in the sense that it takes spiritual truth seriously; it is personal in the sense that it is filtered through your particular experience of seeking that truth. The two source concepts — your Law and your Concept — should illuminate each other by the end, revealing something about their intersection that neither one discloses alone.

It is integrated, not parallel.

An essay that spends the first half on the Law and the second half on the Concept, without ever allowing them to meet, has not fulfilled the assignment. The intersection is the

subject. Find the place where these two live in tension, in harmony, in paradox — and write from there.

It is one voice among many, not the definitive word.

Because a collaborative group of writers will approach these intersections, and because the editor may approach the same intersection independently, your essay is not the final or authoritative reading. Write with conviction, but hold your conclusions with the openness appropriate to a collaborative project. The collection's strength lies in the multiplicity of genuine voices, not in any single authoritative interpretation.

THE MODEL ESSAY

One essay has been prepared as a model for the collection: Law of Truth × Yielding, titled “The Light That Reveals What You Cannot Hold.” It was developed by integrating two independent contemplative drafts — one on the Law of Truth, one on Yielding — into a single unified reflection.

You are encouraged to read it before writing your own, not to imitate its structure or style, but to understand the depth of engagement the collection invites. Notice how the two source concepts are allowed to redefine each other. Notice how the Jubilee itself appears not merely as a historical institution but as a living enactment of the intersection's meaning.

Note: *The model essay is a template of depth and integration, not of voice. Your essay should sound like you.*

HOW TO APPROACH YOUR ESSAY

There is no single correct method, but the following process has proven fruitful:

1. **Sit with each concept separately.** Begin by sitting quietly with each concept separately. What does this Law mean to you, not as doctrine but as lived experience? Where have you encountered it? Where have you struggled with it?
2. **Find the intersection.** Then bring them together. Ask: how does this Concept change my understanding of this Law? How does this Law press upon this Concept? Where do they create tension? Where do they resolve into something larger than either?
3. **Follow the surprise.** Look for the moment of surprise — the place where the intersection revealed something you did not expect to find. That surprise is often the living center of the essay.
4. **Ground it in your life.** Write from experience as well as understanding. Theological abstraction without personal grounding will not carry the weight this collection requires.
5. **Listen to your own voice.** Read back through what you have written and ask: does this sound like me? If it sounds like a compilation of things you have read, begin again. If it sounds like you thinking carefully about something you genuinely care about, you are close.

REQUIRED ELEMENTS IN YOUR SUBMISSION

Each submitted essay must include the following. These are not optional additions — they are integral to the collection's editorial integrity and, as explained below, to the authenticity of the work itself.

- **Personal Testimony.** A brief personal testimony — a moment, a season, or a specific experience that connects you to this intersection. This does not need to be long, and it does not need to be dramatic. It simply needs to be real.
- **The Surprise.** A short reflection on what surprised you in the writing — what you expected to say and what the essay became. This metacognitive element is often where the most honest insight lives.

- **A Response to Another Voice.** A response to one other voice in the collection — another essay, a law, a concept, or a foundational piece — that your reflection engages with, extends, or respectfully questions. This creates the interdependence that makes a collection more than a set of individual pieces.

These three elements may be woven into the essay itself or offered as a brief postscript. Either approach is acceptable. What matters is that they are genuinely present.

A NOTE ON AUTHENTICITY AND AI ASSISTANCE

This is a contemplative project. Its value rests on reflections that embody genuine spiritual seeking, personal honesty, and the unmistakable voice of the writer. AI assistance for research, formatting, outlining, and limited text generation is not prohibited. However, every essay must reflect the thoughts, intent, and heart and soul of its author. Wholesale or unexamined machine generation cannot fulfill what this collection requires, regardless of how polished it appears.

The three required elements above — personal testimony, the surprise, and the response to another voice — ground each reflection in lived reality. No tool has lived your life, sat with your doubts, or encountered your particular version of this intersection.

AI can produce an eloquent essay on any topic. It cannot tell you what moment in your own life opened this intersection to you. That is what this collection is asking for.

Writers are welcome to use AI tools as they would use a concordance, a commentary, or a thesaurus — for research, organizing an outline, formatting, refining phrasing, or drafting limited passages. The ideas, convictions, and voice must remain yours. Every submission passes through editorial review, which serves as the quality gate for these literary and contemplative standards. If you find yourself uncertain whether your essay is genuinely yours, ask the question the required elements will force you to answer: could I stand before another contributor and describe the personal experience that grounded this reflection? If the answer is yes, you are on solid ground.

The editor reserves the right to request a conversation with any contributor about their process before final acceptance. This is not punitive — it is the same conversation any good editor would have. It is also, in the spirit of the project, an opportunity for the kind of genuine exchange the collection itself hopes to model.

PRACTICAL DETAILS

Length

Essays should be no fewer than 1,200 words and no more than 5,000. This range is intentional: short enough to demand precision, long enough to allow genuine development and thorough exploration of the intersection. The model essay is approximately 2,340 words.

Tone

Scholarly but accessible. Theologically serious but not academic in the sense of requiring specialized vocabulary. The ideal reader is a thoughtful person who takes spiritual questions seriously, not a seminary student expecting footnotes.

Structure

There is no required structure. The model essay uses three movements with titled sections, but this is one approach among many. What is required is that the essay has a discernible shape — it moves, it develops, it arrives somewhere.

Scriptural Reference

Use of Scripture is welcome and expected, but the essay is not a biblical commentary. Let the text illuminate the intersection, not substitute for personal reflection.

Format for Submission

Submit as a Word document (.docx) or plain text. Include your assigned badge number (e.g., Reflection 04 of 49) and the intersection title (e.g., Law of Truth × Yielding) at the top of the document. Include a brief contributor biography of two to four sentences.

A FINAL WORD

The Jubilee, in its original institution, was not a reward for achievement. It was a structural acknowledgment that no accumulation — of land, of debt, of bondage — was meant to be permanent. Every fifty years, things reverted. What had been taken up was laid down. What had been held was released.

This collection asks something similar of its writers. Not the release of land or debt, but the release of the need to have the definitive reading — to be right, to be comprehensive, to say the last word. Your essay is one facet of a larger light. Write it as well as you can. Trust the other facets to illuminate what yours does not reach.

The light of truth is unique in that it reveals all things — but it is not revealed except in purity. Write from that place, as honestly as you can, and the collection will take care of itself.



Thoughtful discussion is welcome. Please engage with clarity and respect.

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